

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CCO-00 ABF-01

OC-06 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 NRC-05 TRSE-00

ERDA-05 COME-00 MC-02 DHA-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 AID-05

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R 162130Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8324
INFO OSD/DIA
JCS
OSD/DSAA
USCINCSO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3895

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PINT, PA
SUBJ: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR OFFICE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) STATE 224915, (B) ASUNCION 3455, (C) ASUNCION 3497

SUMMARY: THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AS GIVEN WOULD PROVIDE A RATIONAL
FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO PARAGUAY
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FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 30. THE EMBASSY FORESEES NO PROBLEMS WITH

DIRECTION, COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. BECAUSE OF LOCAL REQUIREMENTS, THE NEW OFFICE WILL NEED THREE SENIOR LINE OFFICERS. THE SUGGESTED NAME OFFICE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR PARAGUAY. SINCE THERE IS NO ROOM IN THE EMBASSY FOR THE NEW OFFICE, STAYING IN THE PRESENT BUILDING SEEMS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION FOR THE PRESENT.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE SET FORTH IN REFERENCE (A) ARE IN LINE WITH OUR EXPECTATIONS AND WOULD PROVIDE A RATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO PARAGUAY FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION OF THE MILGP ON SEPTEMBER 30. THE POSITION OF THE MILGP IN PARAGUAY AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE OUTLINED IN GENERAL TERMS BELOW AND FORM THE BASIS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT FOLLOW.

2. MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND THE MILGP HAVE BEEN AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN US-PARAGUAY RELATIONS SINCE 1943. PRESIDENT STROESSNER AND THE POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT HAVE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE MILGP. IN ADDITION TO THE MUCH-APPRECIATED BENEFITS FROM MAP, TO THEM IT WAS TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE INTEREST AND PRESENCE OF A FRIENDLY, NEUTRAL POWER, WHICH IN THEIR EYES SERVED TO COUNTERBALANCE THE SUPPOSED TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS OF PARAGUAY'S NEIGHBORS, ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL, BOTH OF WHICH MAINTAIN MILITARY MISSIONS HERE.

3. AS REPORTED IN REFERENCES (B) AND (C), ON BEING INFORMED OF THE DECISION TO TERMINATE THE US MILGP IN PARAGUAY, BOTH PRESIDENT STROESSNER AND FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES EXPRESSED STRONG DISPLEASURE OVER THE UNEXPECTED ACTION. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY UPSET BY THE FACT THAT BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY'S TRADITIONAL RIVAL, WAS NOT AMONG THE US MILGP'S IN LATIN AMERICAN ALSO SLATED FOR EARLY TERMINATION. THE ABRUPT TERMINATION OF THE MILGP UNQUESTIONABLY HAS BEEN A BLOW TO OUR RELATIONS WITH PARAGUAY. OUT OF THEIR DESIRE TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE ADVERSE PUBLICITY, THE GOP HAS REFRAINED FROM ANY PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE TERMINATION OF THE MILGP AND REQUESTED THAT WE DO LIKEWISE.
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4. SIZE OF MILITARY COMPONENT. AS PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS, WE SHALL NEED THREE SENIOR LINE OFFICERS, REPRESENTING THE THREE BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE OFFICE SHOULD BE HEADED BY AN ARMY COLONEL AND STAFFED BY AN AIR FORCE LT. COL. AND A NAVY COMMANDER. THIS CONFIGURATION WILL BE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 3, REF (A).

THESE FUNCTIONS REQUIRE EXTENSIVE CONTACT WITH THE PARAGUAYAN MILITARY THAT CAN ONLY BE MADE AT THE SENIOR OFFICER LEVEL. IN ADDITION THE THREE OFFICERS WILL CARRY OUT AN IMPORTANT REPRESENTATION FUNCTION, WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO THE OVERALL GOALS OF THE MISSION AND HELPS MAINTAIN ACCESS TO THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP.

5. NAME. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THIS WITH THE GOP, WE BELIEVE THE PROPOSED NAME OF OFFICE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE IN PARAGUAY BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE MISLEADING AND UNDESIRABLE CONNOTATIONS LOCALLY. EITHER IT WOULD BE CONSTRUED AS MEANING SOME KIND OF US INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY OR IT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE INTERPRETATION THAT THE OFFICE WAS ENGAGED IN ASSISTING THE PARAGUAYAN POLICE, I.E., SOME KIND OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM. INSTEAD, WE PROPOSE THE NAME OFFICE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS BEING MORE ACCURATE AND LESS SUBJECT TO MISINTERPRETATION. IF THIS FOR SOME REASON IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, THE NAME MILITARY ASSISTANCE LIAISON OFFICE WOULD BE SATISFACTORY FOR LOCAL USE.

6. OFFICE SPACE. THERE IS NO ROOM IN THE EMBASSY TO HOUSE THE PROPOSED OSA. FOR THE PRESENT, THE GOP HAS OFFERED TO CONTINUE TO MAKE THE BUILDING NOW USED BY THE MILGP AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE. SINCE THIS STRUCTURE IS QUITE SATISFACTORY FOR OSA FUNCTIONS, IT SEEMS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO KEEP USING THE BUILDING.

7. EMBASSY FORESEES NO PROBLEMS WITH DIRECTION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR NEW OFFICE.
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